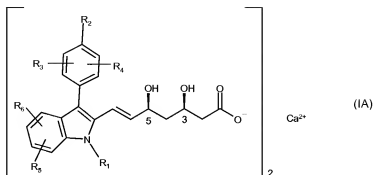


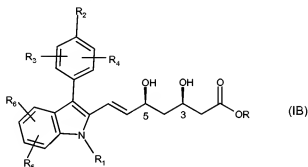
In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A calcium salt of the formula

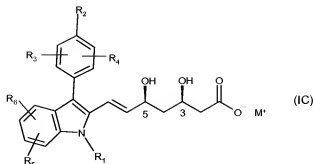


wherein R_1 is [[alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl]] isopropyl; R_2 is fluorine, R_3 [[and]], R_4 [[are independently hydrogen, halogen or alkyl]], R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen [[, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy or aralkoxy]]; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer [[thereof;]] or a hydrate thereof [[; made by a process comprising:

- (1) hydrolyzing a compound of the formula



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 have meanings as defined for formula IA; R represents lower alkyl; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; in the presence of an aqueous base to afford an alkali metal salt of the formula

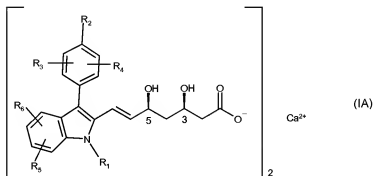


wherein M represents sodium, lithium or potassium; and

(2) treating the alkali metal salt of formula IC with a calcium compound to afford the calcium salt of formula IA]].

2-6. (Cancel)

7. (Currently Amended) A crystalline calcium salt according to claim 1 [[of the formula



wherein R₁ is isopropyl; R₂ is fluorine; R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are hydrogen; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof]].

8. (Previously Presented) The crystalline calcium salt according to claim 7, which has a powder X-ray diffraction pattern with maxima at 2θ values of 5.3, 11.8, 13.9, 17.5, 19.1, 22.0 and 23.1 and which has a melting point of about 220°C.

9-12. (Cancel)

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

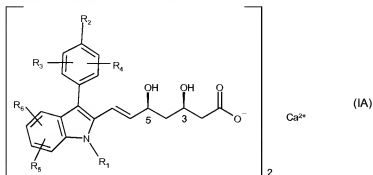
14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipoproteinemia, dyslipidemia and atherosclerosis, comprising:

administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7.

* * *

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1. A calcium salt of the formula



wherein R₁ is isopropyl; R₂ is fluorine, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently hydrogen; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer or a hydrate thereof.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. A crystalline calcium salt according to claim 1.

8. The crystalline calcium salt according to claim 7, which has a powder X-ray diffraction pattern with maxima at 2θ values of 5.3, 11.8, 13.9, 17.5, 19.1, 22.0 and 23.1 and which has a melting point of about 220°C.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:
a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipoproteinemia, dyslipidemia and atherosclerosis, comprising:
administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7.